

The U-2 Affair: Powers Sets Out to Photograph Suspected Operational Russian I.C.B.M. Base

By DAVID WISE and
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This is the first of 14 articles condensed from the book "The U-2 Affair," which tells the story behind the United States espionage flights over Soviet Russia. Wise and Dore are Washington correspondents—Wise of the New York Herald Tribune and Dore of the Chicago Sun-Times — who pooled their knowledge and writing abilities to produce the book.

Chapter I

FLIGHT

HE WAS 30 years old and he had flown more than 500 hours in the U-2. He had completed 27 missions in it since reporting to the Middle East four years before. Each had been a grueling and lonely ride along the edges of space. But the worst ride for any U-2 pilot was the silent flight over the Soviet Union.

Francis Cary Powers was flying there that day for the Central Intelligence Agency.

On his hip was a noiseless .22-caliber semiautomatic pistol.

In his logbook were the notations: 1 May 1960, Seattle Number 4154, Takeoff 0126 GMT (6:26 A.M. local time), delayed one-half hour.

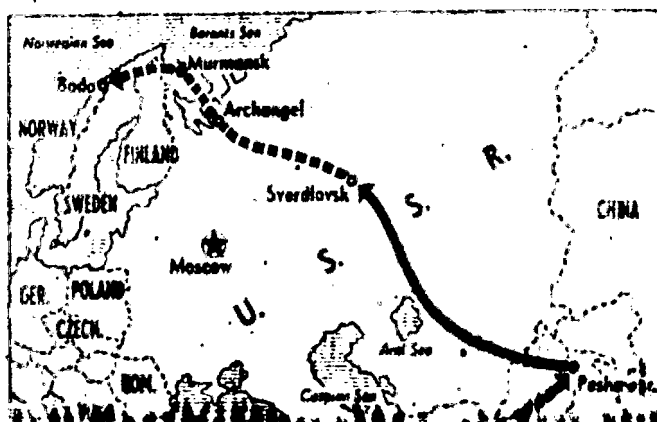
On his map, a red and blue line traced a 3788-mile flight from Peshawar, Pakistan, to Heds Nørby, Denmark, by bearing his radio compass at a station near Stalinabad, 36 miles to the north. Below him was the border of the Soviet Union.

At Incirlik Air Base, 10 miles from Adana, near the southern coast of Turkey, it was 6.38 a.m. Powers' 24-year-old wife Barbara was asleep in trailer T1350 at the end of two even rows of 22 identical trailers flanking an asphalt road.

There, amid carefully clipped lawns, domesticated flowers and crawling vines, an isolated bit of middle-class suburbia had been created for the seven U-2 pilots, the supporting crews, and their wives and children.



This is a U-2 like the high-flying plane that Francis Gary Powers was flying when downed near Sverdlovsk, more than 1000 miles inside the Soviet Union.



the U-2 program, but left the details to subordinates.

It was at Camp David on a weekend the previous September that the President had met on intimate and friendly terms with Nikita S. Khrushchev, the Soviet Premier. It seemed to be the beginning of a bright new honeymoon in Russian-American relations.

Eisenhower was to carry the "spirit of Camp David" to Paris for a summit meeting two weeks hence. Then, as Khrushchev's honored guest, he was to visit the Soviet Union the following month.

In Pound, Va., in a hollow
at the tapering tail of the Ap-

the war. It brought 1 family (as his family called her) to his home in four states in his last 15 years.

Oliver had never got past the fifth grade, but he had abundant native wit and his imagination stretched beyond his limited boundaries of the fifth. Francis was his only son, 10 years old, near their five years, but the boy was his pride and joy. He filled his ambition of being

Francie was a good boy, he helped his father and brother on the family farm, their small patch of land. He went regularly each Sunday to the fundamentalist Church of Christ, where his family at-



spotted his qualifications and offered him a job—in addition to extensive photographic training, he had proved himself an excellent pilot and he was one of the six best gunners in his wing.

Pravers quit his \$700-a-month job with the Air Force in April of 1956 and went to work for Lockheed, which was serving as a front for the CIA, at a salary of \$2500 a month. He reported as Francis Gary "Palmer" for training with the First Weather Observational Squadron (Provisional) at Watertown Strip, Nev. And the following Aug. 17 — on his twenty-seventh birthday — he said goodbye to his parents in Pound and left for Arizona.

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**TOMORROW: Chapter II—
S. PHILIP NAVIGATOR.**